

slow down its consideration. Once this bill is signed into law, the story is not over. Congress must continue to use its legislative authority to ensure that the compact is implemented as intended.

With strong oversight, this body must ensure that the provisions of the compact are used to protect the Great Lakes. Hopefully, this legislation is a starting point. It is the first step in protecting our water resource but it must not be our last. While I encourage a no vote on the final legislation, I do so to ensure that these concerns are clearly presented for the record.

HONORING SHIRLENE MERCER
FOR HER LONG SERVICE TO HER
STATE AND COUNTRY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Mrs. Shirlene Mercer, a long-time community leader, teacher and role model. While I know she will continue to play an important role in our community, Shirlene is retiring after serving the 8th Congressional district for 20 years.

Shirlene has always worked to serve the community above herself. She was a teacher for 24 years in Hardeman County, TN, before joining our staff in 1989 as Director of District Services, a position through which she has helped countless Tennesseans.

Shirlene has also helped many West Tennesseans through her tireless dedication to fighting crime in our area by initiating regular anti-crime marches for residents of Madison County, Tennessee, to make clear their intention to keep our neighborhoods safe for our families. I have been honored to be part of these marches over the years, as have many other local, state and national leaders, including Vice President Al Gore. Shirlene's work gained national attention and helped highlight the problems of crime in our area and in many communities like it across our state and country.

Both Vice President Gore and I have been fortunate to receive Shirlene's guidance over the years, as have many other leaders, including Governor Phil Bredesen, Governor Ned McWherter, Senator Jim Sasser, Congressman Harold Ford, Sr., Congressman Harold Ford, Jr., and many members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Her counsel on issues of importance to Tennesseans has always been helpful to those who seek to better serve their communities.

Shirlene is a graduate of Merry High School and Lane College, both in Jackson, TN, and she did graduate work at the University of Memphis and Austin Peay State University. She is married to Luther, a Madison County Commissioner, and they have two grown children, Luther Mercer, Jr., and Tina Mercer. Both are following in their mother's footsteps and proving to be strong leaders in their communities.

Madam Speaker, I wish you could see Shirlene's office walls in our Jackson, TN, district office. They are filled, floor to ceiling, with awards and commendations she has earned over the years for her service and leadership.

Included in these many awards are multiple recognitions from the NAACP, the Tennessee Education Association's "Humanitarian Award" and the FBI's "Director's Community Leadership Award," just to name a few of the very long list.

I know that even as Shirlene begins her retirement from Congressional service, she will remain active in our community. I am sure she will continue to help West Tennesseans and will remain a leader in the Tennessee Democratic Party. Many of us will still seek her counsel and friendship.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you and our colleagues will join Betty Ann and me in congratulating Shirlene on her retirement, expressing deep gratitude and admiration for her long career of public service and wishing her all the best as she works in new ways to help those in our community.

HONORING SOUTH CAROLINA
RESEARCH AUTHORITY

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, As Dean of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation, I rise today on behalf of my colleagues in the South Carolina delegation to honor the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA, on its 25th anniversary. SCRA was established 25 years ago and, since its inception, has played a leading role in commercializing technological advances, managing research parks, and supporting small businesses and entrepreneurial development. The result has been a positive economic impact on South Carolinians. In 2007, SCRA operations, technology parks, and programs in South Carolina were responsible for a \$1.4 billion economic impact. SCRA's operations, technological programs, and research parks, have benefited South Carolina and the country.

Madam Speaker, we are honored to celebrate with fellow South Carolinians the 25th anniversary of the South Carolina Research Authority. We recognize the distinguished leadership and staff for their hard work and dedication to making SCRA successful. We look forward to witnessing the continued growth and development of this great institution and seeing the tremendous impact it has on our State and our country.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JERRY
WELLER FOR HIS DISTIN-
GUISHED SERVICE REP-
RESENTING THE PEOPLE OF IL-
LINOIS.

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a distinguished Member of Congress from the Illinois Delegation, Congressman JERRY WELLER. JERRY is a true friend and a valued member of the Illinois Delegation.

From his rural roots growing up on a farm in Dwight, Illinois, JERRY has dedicated his life

to public service. He started in the office of Representative Tom Corcoran before moving on to the office of the Secretary of Agriculture before being elected to the Illinois General Assembly. In 1994 he was elected to represent Illinois' 11th District in Congress where he has served ever since.

Congressman WELLER has been a strong voice for Illinois working tirelessly for such important projects as forming the nation's largest national prairie, the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and creating the Abraham Lincoln National Veterans Cemetery.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve with JERRY WELLER in the House of Representatives. We will all miss his presence, especially in the Illinois delegation. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Congressman WELLER and his wife Zury as they embark on new beginnings and future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS
AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN DE-
FENSE CONTRACTING ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Fairness and Accountability in Defense Contracting Act. This bill will provide much needed transparency to the growing defense contracting industry, and help shine light on any conflict of interest between Pentagon contracting officials, as well as any perceived "revolving door" between the Pentagon procurement offices and private defense contractors.

As our military conflict and commitments have increased overseas since 2003, the Department of Defense has increasingly relied on private contractors to supply goods and services to support our armed forces. In January, 2007, the Acquisition Advisory Panel issued a report to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy and the United States Congress on the procurement policies of the Federal Government. In this report, the advisory panel devoted an entire chapter to evaluating the appropriate role of contractors in supporting the Government, and found that the potential for conflicts of interest "has increased significantly in recent years" as the traditional lines between public and private functions are continually blurred.

In July of this year, the Project on Government Oversight sent a letter to the General Services Administration and stated that a revolving door now exists between public and private sectors that has "become such an accepted part of Federal contracting in recent years that it is frequently difficult to determine where the Government stops and the private sector begins." The conflict of interest that results from this "revolving door" between private contractors and Government contracting offices can create serious conflicts of interest that may result in an environment of favoritism and profiteering that will only serve to misuse Federal tax dollars and betray the public's trust.

While a revolving door culture would be disturbing in any instance where public funds are used, it is particularly heinous during a time

when our country is at war and the lives of our men and women in the armed services depend on the equipment that is supplied to them by our procurement offices. Unfortunately, and to my complete dismay, there have been far too many instances over the past decade where the Pentagon's procurement policies have sold our soldiers short.

In January of 2006 it was revealed by the New York Times that an internal Pentagon memo reported that 80 percent of the Marines killed in Iraq due to upper body wounds could have survived if they had extra body armor. This troubling news followed earlier revelations that our troops went into Iraq without enough bulletproof vests and armored vehicles necessary to safeguard their lives. In light of these reports I requested that the Department of Defense Inspector General conduct an investigation into the Pentagon's body armor procurement policies. The Inspector General's initial findings, while incomplete, uncovered a troubling trend: 13 of the Army's 28 body armor contracts between January, 2004, and December, 2006, did not either require, perform, or have documentation to support proper first article testing as required by Federal Acquisition Requirements. While I am waiting for the Inspector General to complete a more thorough audit of the overall body armor procurement policy, these initial results should spark the desire for greater contracting oversight in any civic minded person.

In addition to the DoD IG's findings on body armor, there have been numerous recent public cases where the Pentagon's procurement policies have failed our troops. Earlier this year it was revealed that in 2007, the Army awarded a contract worth over \$200 million to two 22 year old boys to supply ammunition to Afghan troops. Appallingly, this ammunition was found to be from the Cold War era and completely inadequate for the Army's needs. Additionally, the botched contract award by the Air Force for KC-135 tankers, which was, challenged, reviewed by GAO, and ultimately reopened, received even greater public scrutiny. And perhaps most damning is the recent GAO report that the Pentagon has wasted about \$300 billion in defense spending.

These public examples show a disturbing trend of the failure of Pentagon procurement policy. They also suggest that an increasingly blurred line between the public and private sectors as identified by the Advisory Panel, as well as the perceived "revolving door" between contracting offices and private contractors, have consistently undermined the public's best interest.

This legislation will fight the revolving door between Pentagon contracting offices and private defense contractors by strengthening the transparency and reporting requirements for private contractors bidding on and receiving defense contracts. The Fairness and Accountability in Defense Contracting Act will require contractors who are bidding on contracts to disclose any Defense Department employment history of its employees. This legislation will also require that contractors submit a yearly report, for each year that a contract is in effect, which discloses this Defense Department employment history. The Department of Defense will also be required to submit a report to congressional defense committees that details the employment information reported by the contractor as required by this Act. And finally, this legislation will direct the GAO to

submit a report to Congress on the implementation and enforcement of rules governing future employment negotiations of contracting officials.

These measures will provide the transparency necessary to ensure that conflicts of interest with the Defense contracting offices, and a perceived revolving door to the private sector, are not undermining the public trust and selling the American taxpayers short. Most importantly, this legislation is necessary to ensure that defense contracting policies serve to provide the best possible equipment for our men and women in uniform at the best possible value to the taxpayer.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MATTHEW K. ROSE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matthew K. Rose, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Rose is being honored as this year's Fort Worth Business Executive of the Year and will be inducted into the Fort Worth Business Hall of Fame.

In June 1999, Rose became Chief Operating Officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe where he was responsible for all operations and marketing activities. He quickly accrued accomplishments, being made President and Chief Executive Officer in December of 2000, and later being elected Chairman of Burlington Northern Santa Fe in March of 2002.

In addition to leading the company to five consecutive years of recordsetting revenue earnings, Rose rebuilt flood-damaged rail lines ahead of schedule and won national recognition for this accomplishment. Rose's peers know him as not only a gifted businessman but also as a man with excellent leadership skills and a strong ability to work well with others.

It is with great honor that I recognize Matthew Rose for his hard work and leadership given to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He sets a great example for us all, and I am proud to represent him in Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES C. BINNICKER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James C. Binnicker, a man who has dedicated a lifetime of service both to our country and to the families of our military veterans. It is my pleasure and privilege to honor him as a great leader and a great American.

Mr. Binnicker's career of service began as a Civil Air Patrol cadet in his hometown of Aiken, South Carolina. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1957. Mr. Binnicker served honorably and with distinction for more

than thirty years. He reached the pinnacle of achievement in 1986 when he was selected to be the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is a unique non-commissioned rank. As the highest enlisted leader in the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant Binnicker served as the personal adviser to the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, and utilization of the enlisted forces. There have only been fifteen Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force in the history of the U.S. military, and Mr. Binnicker was the ninth.

When Mr. Binnicker retired from the Air Force in 1990, he could have rested on the legacy he had created. Instead, he took on another challenge, the leadership and development of the Air Force Enlisted Village, a non-profit charity in Shalimar, Florida that provides a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted airmen. As President and CEO of the Enlisted Village, Mr. Binnicker oversees a \$28 million organization with 86 employees who care for more than 500 independent and assisted living residents on two campuses.

Mr. Binnicker's accomplishments were recognized in 2008 when the Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging selected him as their "Executive of the Year." Considering that caring for the elderly is a second career for Mr. Binnicker, the honor of being recognized by his peers in the state's largest aging-services organization is quite significant. Mr. Binnicker has dedicated his life to helping those in need, we will be eternally grateful for his service.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's true heroes, James C. Binnicker, for his leadership and service to Northwest Florida and throughout the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLEAR LAKE PATROL DIVISION AND HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the Clear Lake Patrol Division of the Houston Police Department for its outstanding service to the Houston community in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

In the days following the storm, the Clear Lake Patrol Division was dispatched to provide security at the congressional mobile office at the American Legion Post 490 near Ellington Field. By providing security, traffic and crowd control, the officers were able to ensure a successful operation and allow thousands of individuals to register for hurricane assistance.

Founded in 1841, the Houston Police Department continues to provide invaluable service and has grown to become the largest municipal police departments in the State of Texas. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Eldon Harris, the Clear Lake Patrol Division acts as a preserver of peace and a source of safety for the Clear Lake area of Houston.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Houston Police Department's Clear Lake Patrol Division for their remarkable efforts following Hurricane Ike. Without their service, the